

Claims

1. A process for the production of a protein by cell culture, said process comprising culturing eukaryotic cells which constitutively produce said protein in a medium which comprises an alkanoic acid and/or salt thereof at a maintained concentration of less than 0.1mM.
2. A process for the production of a protein by cell culture which comprises the steps of:
 - (a) culturing eukaryotic cells which constitutively produce said protein in a culture medium which medium comprises an alkanoic acid and/or salt thereof at a concentration of less than 0.1mM.
 - (b) subculturing the cell culture and
 - (c) supplementing the subculture media with additional alkanoic acid / or salt thereof to maintain the concentration therein during the culturing process at less than 0.1mM.
3. A process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the alkanoic acid and/or salt thereof is a straight chain C_{2-10} .
4. A process according to claim 3, wherein the straight chain is C_{3-6} .
5. A process according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the alkanoic acid is butyric acid or a metal salt thereof.
6. A process according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the salt is sodium butyrate.
7. A process according to any of the above claims, wherein the acid and/or salt thereof is less than 0.1mM but greater than 0.025mM.

8. A process according to claim 7, wherein the acid and/or salt thereof is less than 0.1mM but greater than 0.05mM.
- 5 9. A process according to claims 7 and 8, wherein the acid and/or salt thereof is about 0.075mM.
- 10 10. A process according to any of the above claims, wherein the eukaryotic cells may be NSO or CHO.
11. A process according to any of the above claims wherein the protein produced by said process may be selected from hormones, enzymes, enzyme inhibitors, lymphokines or immunoglobulins.
- 15 12. A process according to claim 11, wherein the protein is an immunoglobulin.

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